

Rotary Club of Portage Bulletin

Porta-Rota-Call

September 4, 2019

by: Christy Klien

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by President Tom Welsh.

President Tom led us in the Four-Way Test,

Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chaplain Karen Foster gave our invocation.

Greeter Ben Barber welcomed everyone to the meeting today. Our visitors were Hailey Pullano, Bob Frizzo, and Rotarian JR from Rotary Club of Vicksburg.

PROGRAM: Kurk Wilks with **Mann + Hummel** –Mentorship program with area community schools

Kurk Wilks is the President & General Manager of Original Equipment. He has worked for Mann + Hummel for approximately 20 years. He is based in Portage and he and his family love the community. He shared a brief history of Mann + Hummel. The company has four sections: Automotive Original, Automotive Aftermarket, Industrial Filtration, and Water Filtration. They have over 20000 employees worldwide and produce 73000 products. The Portage plant produces the filtration products for Ford.

Mann + Hummel started their mentorship program after Wilks was approached by a personal friend who is a counselor at Portage Community High School to ask if Mann + Hummel had any job openings for one of his students. The mentorship program came out of that conversation. Mann + Hummel partnered with OnStaff to administer the program. The program is geared toward students who don't see college as an option. Mann + Hummel approached local schools to help identify students who would be good candidates for the mentorship program. The students need to be interested in working in a manufacturing facility. Mann + Hummel, in turn, identify staff mentors and start meeting and working with the students.

Wilks shared that the mentoring program helps address the shortage of skilled technical workers. There is a gap for skilled technical training; the local public schools do not provide this type of training any longer and it is now done at the community college level. Wilks believes that is too late. He feels that we need to identify students at an earlier age and provide this type of career as an option for students. The mentorship program

is also a personal desire of Wilks who wants to create an opportunity for kids. He is one of ten children, his father died when he was young and he feels fortunate to have had several people through his life that have mentored him.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Peacock Strut volunteer sign up. Strut is next Saturday.
- Campaign Kick-Off for a new Portage Senior Center-September 17 at 10 AM
- Tickets to purchase for District \$25.00. Purchase from President Tom.

HAPPY BUCKS were collected for Hurricane Dorian relief from A. Roberts, J. Willson, D. Story, K. Carr, E. Turner, M. Camacho-Ochoa, T. Welsh, B. Barber, M. Wright, M. Hall, P. Carlson, J. Santamaria, D. Hewitt, B. Crown, and B. Borsos.

Sergeant Chris Buckley fined people whose cell phones went off during the meeting. Emily, Dick, Nancy, Jose all paid for their attachment to their phones. Sergeant Buckley challenged us to a Portage Central/Portage Northern Football trivia game. Tables with wrong answers were fined.

50/50: Jose Santamaria was the winner of \$12.00.

ACE OF SPADES: Bill Crown drew from a deck of 35 cards for the chance to win the pot of \$217.50. Luck was not on his side today.

Next week's program features the **American Heart Association to give us a general overview of what they do.**

Meeting adjourned at 12:46 p.m. by President Tom Welsh.

[Facebook link](#)

The Portage Rotary Club provides financial support for youth education, families in need and other local charitable causes. We are part of Rotary International. A service organization of business and professional leaders that provide humanitarian services and help build goodwill and peace in the world